**DECLARATION AND PETITION**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am an original, first and joint inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled **RELEASABLE CORD APPARATUS AND BREAKAWAY END PORTION FOR WINDOW TREATMENTS**, the specification of which was filed on February 12, 2002 and assigned Serial No. 10/074,693.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application of which priority is claimed. None.

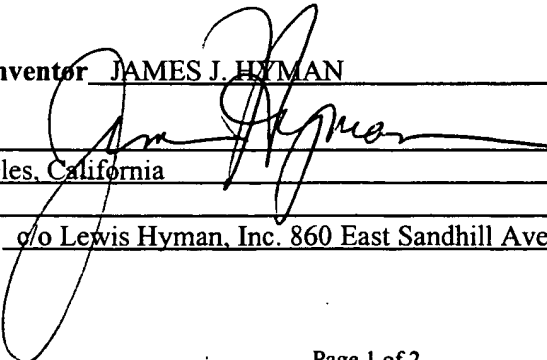
I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code § 119(e) of the United States provisional application listed below:

(Application Serial No.)	Filing Date	(Pending, abandoned)
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I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120/365 of any United States and PCT international application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application. None.

Wherefore I pray that Letters Patent be granted to me for the invention or discovery described and claimed in the foregoing specification and claims, and I hereby subscribe my name to the foregoing specification and claims, declaration, and this petition.

Full name of first inventor JAMES J. HYMAN

Inventor's signature 

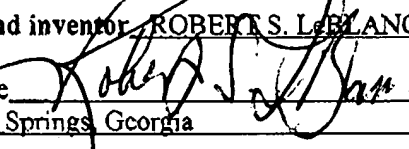
Date 5/6/02

Residence Los Angeles, California

Citizenship U.S.A.

Post Office Address: c/o Lewis Hyman, Inc. 860 East Sandhill Avenue, Carson, CA 90746-1221

Full name of second inventor ROBERT S. LEBLANC

Inventor's signature 

Date 5-1-02

Residence Powder Springs, Georgia

Citizenship U.S.A.

Post Office Address: c/o Lewis Hyman, Inc., 860 East Sandhill Avenue, Carson, CA 90746-1221

## ASSIGNMENT

WHEREAS, WE, **James J. Hyman** and **Robert S. LeBlanc**, the undersigned inventors (ASSIGNORS), have invented a **RELEASABLE CORD APPARATUS AND BREAKAWAY END PORTION FOR WINDOW TREATMENTS**, for which we filed an application for Letters Patent of the United States on February 12, 2002, Serial Number 10/074,693. We are the joint owners of this application, invention and improvements; and

WHEREAS, **LEWIS HYMAN, INC.**, (ASSIGNEE) is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the state of California, having a place of business at 860 East Sandhill Avenue, Carson, California 90746-1221, desires to acquire the entire right, title and interest in and to the inventions, applications and Letters Patent to be granted and issued for the inventions and applications;

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00) by the ASSIGNEE to us paid, and other valuable consideration, the receipt and legal sufficiency of all of which we acknowledge, we, the ASSIGNORS, have sold and do hereby sell, assign, transfer and set over unto the ASSIGNEE, its successors and assigns, the entire right, title and interest in and to the inventions and all improvements thereon, in and to the application for Letters Patent thereon, in and to applications pertaining to or based upon the inventions and applications, including divisional and continuing applications and continuations-in-part, and in and to any and all Letters Patent which may be granted and issued on the inventions and applications, or any of them, not only for, to and in the United States of America, its territories and possessions, but for, to and in all foreign countries, together with and including all priority rights based upon any and all applications in the United States of America covered by this Assignment.

And for the above-named considerations, we agree that we will, at the request of the ASSIGNEE, execute any and all applications for Letters Patent for the inventions and any and all other papers and documents and do all other and further lawful acts that the ASSIGNEE may deem necessary or desirable to obtain Letters Patent on the inventions, to secure the grant of such Letters Patent and to perfect and vest in the ASSIGNEE the entire right, title and interest in the inventions, applications and Letters Patent.

And for the above-named considerations, we authorize and empower the ASSIGNEE, its successors and assigns, to apply for and obtain, in its or their own names, Letters Patent for the inventions before competent International Authorities including the World Intellectual Property Office and in any and all countries foreign to the United States in which applications for Letters Patent can be so made or Letters Patent so obtained.

Dated: April 8, 2002

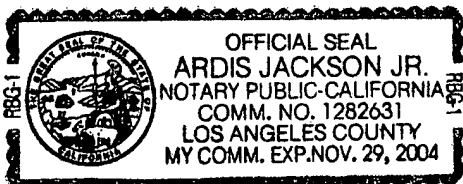
  
Name: James J. Hyman  
Address: Los Angeles, California

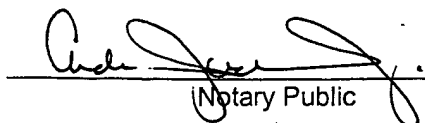
STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
 ) ss.  
COUNTY OF Los Angeles )

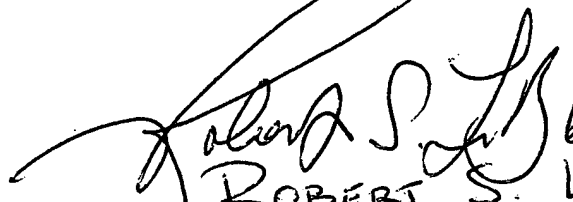
On this 8th day of April, 2002, before me Ardis Jackson Jr., the undersigned Notary Public, personally appeared **James J. Hyman**, personally known to me (or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence) to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same in his authorized capacity, and that by his signature on the instrument, the person, or the entity upon behalf of which the person acted, executed the instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal.

(SEAL)



  
Notary Public

Dated: April 3, 2002


ROBERT S. LeBlanc

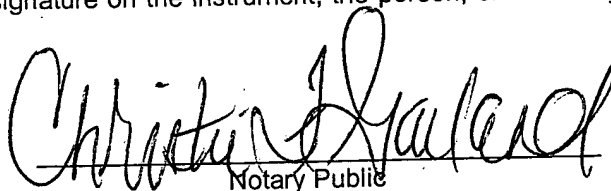
Name: Robert S. LeBlanc  
Address: Powder Springs, Georgia

STATE OF GEORGIA )  
COUNTY OF Cobb ) ss.

On this 3rd day of April, 2002, before me Christie F. Garland the undersigned Notary Public, personally appeared **Robert S. LeBlanc**, personally known to me (or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence) to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same in his authorized capacity, and that by his signature on the instrument, the person, or the entity upon behalf of which the person acted, executed the instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal.

(SEAL)



Notary Public

**NOTARY PUBLIC, COBB COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**MY COMMISSION EXPIRES MARCH 23, 2003**



COPY OF PAPERS  
ORIGINALLY FILED

PATENT  
Docket No. 21642-11

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application Of:

James J. Hyman and Robert S. LeBlanc

Serial Number: 10/074,693

Filing Date: February 12, 2002

Entitled: RELEASABLE CORD APPARATUS AND  
BREAKAWAY END PORTION FOR WINDOW  
TREATMENTS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

### POWER OF ATTORNEY

Sir:

Lewis Hyman, Inc., having become the owner of all rights to this application by virtue of an Assignment executed by the inventors, a copy of which is attached hereto, hereby appoints:

Charles Berman, Reg. 29,249  
Marc Bobys, Reg. 45,267  
Louis J. Bovasso, Reg. 24,075  
Marc E. Brown, Reg. 28,590  
Christopher Darrow, Reg. 30,166  
Michael B. Farber, Reg. 32,612  
Scott R. Hansen, Reg. 38,486  
Michael D. Harris, Reg. 26,690  
Douglas N. Larson, Reg. 29,401  
Spyros J. Lazaris, Reg. 45,981  
Charles Rosenberg, Reg. 31,464  
Guy P. Smith, Reg. 20,142  
Gregory B. Wood, Reg. 28,133

Daniel Chapik, Reg. 43,424  
Harold D. Jastram, Reg. 19,777  
Alan D. Kamrath, Reg. 28,227  
Chad Klingbeil, Reg. 33,002  
Craig J. Lervick, Reg. 35,244  
Cyrus Morton, Reg. 44,954  
Bruce Canter, Reg. 34,792  
Louis C. Cullman, Reg. 39,645  
Monique Heyninck, Reg.  
P44,763  
James W. Inskeep, Reg. 33,910  
Kurt A. MacLean, Reg. 31,118  
Ben H. Bedi, Reg. 39,904

Everitt George Beers, Reg. 40,508  
Michael K. Bosworth, Reg. 28,186  
Justin F. Boyce, Reg. 40,920  
Chris W. Chou, Reg. 41,672  
Anthony B. Diepenbrock III, Reg.  
39,960  
Robert O. Guillot, Reg. 28,852  
Claude A.S. Hamrick, Reg. 22,586  
Esther La, Reg. 43,734  
Leah Sherry, Reg. 43,918

whose address is:

**SPYROS J. LAZARIS, ESQ.**  
**OPPENHEIMER WOLFF & DONNELLY LLP**  
2029 CENTURY PARK EAST, 38TH FLOOR  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90067  
TELEPHONE (310) 788-5000  
FAX (310) 788-5100

its attorneys to prosecute this application and to transact in connection with the application all business in the Patent and Trademark Office and before competent International Authorities including the World Intellectual Property Organization.

To the best of my knowledge and belief, title is in the assignee identified above. I am empowered to act on behalf of the assignee.

I declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true. I make these statements with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. § 1001, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing from the application.

Date: 5/6/02

**LEWIS HYMAN, INC.**

By 

Name: James H. Hyman

Title: President